## **News Release**



CONTACT: Media Relations – 781-907-3980

## National Grid Warns Massachusetts Customers Of Renewed Payment Scam

Callers demanding immediate payment through prepaid cards should be reported

November 4, 2015

WALTHAM, MASS. -- National Grid is once again warning customers to beware of the latest ongoing episode of utility billing scams. As has been the case several times in the past few years, National Grid's Customer Contact Center has received calls from residential and business customers saying they have been contacted by phone by individuals claiming to be from National Grid and advising the customers they have a past due balance on their utility bill. These scammers warn that service will be shut off immediately, unless the customer purchases a prepaid debit card in a specific amount and provides the caller with the card's account number. Similar scams have operated throughout the country periodically.

Callers have become increasingly sophisticated in replicating National Grid's recorded messaging and directions for phone prompts making it more difficult to differentiate an actual call from National Grid from a scammer's call.

National Grid does contact customers with past due balances by phone to offer payment options, but never demands direct payment through the use of a pre-paid debit card and never accepts payment through these cards. If customers wish, they can arrange for a payment by check, credit card or debit card if they speak directly to a customer service representative. Payment can also be made by credit card or debit card without a representative's assistance.

Customers who have received calls demanding immediate payment and are told to purchase a pre-paid debit card or provide other sensitive financial information should hang up and contact National Grid immediately. To verify account information and for any billing-related questions, Massachusetts electricity customers should call National Grid's Customer Contact Center at 1-800-322-3223. For Massachusetts natural gas customers the number to call is 1-800-233-5325.

**About National Grid** 

National Grid (LSE: NG; NYSE: NGG) is an electricity and natural gas delivery company that connects nearly 7 million customers to vital energy sources through its networks in New York, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. It is the largest distributor of natural gas in the Northeast. National Grid also operates the systems that deliver gas and electricity across Great Britain.

Through its U.S. Connect21 strategy, National Grid is transforming its electricity and natural gas networks to support the 21<sup>st</sup> century digital economy with smarter, cleaner, and more resilient energy solutions. Connect21 is vital to our communities' long-term economic and environmental health and aligns with regulatory initiatives in New York (REV: Reforming the Energy Vision) and Massachusetts (Grid Modernization).

For more information please visit our website: <a href="www.nationalgridus.com">www.nationalgridus.com</a>, or our <a href="Connecting">Connecting</a> website. You can also follow us on <a href="Twitter">Twitter</a>, watch us on <a href="You Tube">You Tube</a>, Friend us on <a href="Facebook">Facebook</a> and find our photos on <a href="Instagram">Instagram</a>.

###